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Business In Nebraska

January 1987
Vol. 42 No. 508

Prepared by the Bureau of Business Research
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402/472-2334

# NEBRASKA PERSONAL INCOME & EARNINGS 1970-1985

Personal income often has been used to examine the state's overall economic performance and well-being. For example, in the November 1986 issue of *Business in Nebraska*, the trends in the state's personal income and several of its components were reviewed. The article showed that Nebraska's per capita personal incomes in 1984 and 1985 were higher than in any of the previous years. This current article will review different components and compare Nebraska's trends to those of the nation.

In August 1986, the U.S. Bureau of Economic Analysis released personal income information for 1985 and previous years. Personal income is income before taxes and consists of earnings; dividends, interest, and rent; and transfer payments (such as social security). Earnings also are known as labor and proprietors' income and consist of wages and salaries, other labor income, farm proprietors' income, and nonfarm proprietors' income. It is these components of earnings on which this article will focus.

Table 1 on page 2 presents Nebraska's earnings and income data for selected years between 1970 and 1985. From this table, it can be seen that all sectors grew, with other labor income growing most rapidly (405 percent) and farm proprietors' income growing least rapidly (85 percent). Much of this growth, however, is misleading because it reflects increasing prices and a growing population. To account for these changes, the income and earnings numbers in Table 1 have been divided by population and the U.S. personal consumption expenditure deflator. The result is constant dollar per capita income. Additionally, the PCE deflator was adjusted so that 1985 is now the base year. For the remainder of this article, all income and earnings data will be price-adjusted.

Although it may be somewhat inappropriate to express the components of earnings on a per capita basis because all persons in the state do not receive wages and salaries and/or proprietors' income, it does allow for comparisons that are consistent for all measures. Later in this article, the individual types of earnings will be adjusted by the number of earners in each.

In discussing the overall economic well-being of the state, one of the most common measures is price-adjusted per capita personal income. From Table 1 and Figure 1 (on page 3), it can be seen that per capita income has grown 29.2 percent since 1970, with 1985 higher than any preceding year. Over this same period, U.S. per capita income grew 29.4 percent. Figure 1 shows that there is considerable volatility in this sector, due primarily to fluctuations in farm sector income.

If farm income is removed, per capita nonfarm income exhibits more stability. Nonfarm income was relatively flat in the early 1980s, but since 1982 has grown steadily. The average of 1983-1985 was 35.5 percent higher than the 1970-1972 average, compared to a 31.0 percent increase for the nation.

Although nonfarm income is a good measure of the well-being of the state, it includes transfer payments and dividends, interest, and rent which do not necessarily reflect payments for current production in the state. Per capita nonfarm earnings measure the income of nonfarm laborers and proprietors in the state. Nonfarm earnings exhibited a trend roughly similar to nonfarm income, but they fell much more in the 1980s, reaching a trough in 1983. Since 1983, nonfarm earnings have rebounded, but 1985's value of $8,589 was still below the values in 1978 and 1979. During the period 1970-1972 and 1983-1985, per capita nonfarm earnings rose 22.2 percent, while U.S. per capita nonfarm earnings were up 19.8 percent.

Table 1 and Figure 1 also review the per capita components of earnings. As indicated earlier, caution should be used in interpreting these values.

Another measure of aggregate activity in Nebraska is labor compensation; that is, wages and salaries and other labor income. Both labor compensation and wages and salaries followed the trend of earnings; however, 1985 values were only slightly lower than the 1979 peak and surpassed all other previous years. Between 1970-1972 and 1983-1985, wages and salaries grew 21.0 percent and other labor income grew 104.7 percent. For the U.S., the respective growth rates were 17.0 percent and 86.6 percent.

Per capita nonfarm proprietors' income has remained steady during the 16 year period. There was some growth during the 1970s, with a peak in 1979. Following the 1979 peak were three years of decline, followed by two years of growth. The 1983-1985 average was 2.4 percent above the average in 1970-1972 for Nebraska and was 6.2 percent higher for the nation.

Per capita farm proprietors' income peaked in 1973, with 1975 another year of relatively high incomes. Since 1975, the

trend in per capita farm proprietors' income has been fairly flat, with considerable year to year fluctuations. Despite the fact that the value for 1985 was higher than any year since 1975, the average for 1983-1985 was 25.8 percent less than the average for 1970-1972. Nationally, the comparable value was down 45.3 percent.

Figure 2 on page 3 presents measures for the U.S. similar to those of Nebraska in Figure 1. Comparing the two, it can be seen that two major differences exist. First, per capita total personal income in Nebraska is more volatile than for the U.S. Second, the downturn in the beginning 1980s affected Nebraska more severely (in all measures) than the U.S. and Nebraska has been slower to recover. All measures for the U.S. exceed their comparable 1979 values.

The Bureau of Economic Analysis also prepares estimates of employment on a basis similar to income and earnings. Included in Table 1 are estimates of wage and salary employees, farm proprietors, and nonfarm proprietors. These employment numbers are used to determine earnings per worker. These values can be found in Table 1 and Figures 3 through 6 (on page 3).

Figure 3 shows total earnings per employee (wage and salary workers and proprietors) in Nebraska. From the chart, it can be

TABLE 1
Nebraska Personal Income

| | 1970 | 1973 | 1978 | 1979 | 1982 | 1983 | 1984 | 1985 | % Change 1970-72 to 1983-85 |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| **TOTAL PERSONAL INCOME (thousands of current dollars)** | | | | | | | | | |
| Personal income by place of residence | 5,603,587 | 8,006,847 | 12,372,901 | 13,784,959 | 17,430,037 | 17,991,512 | 19,916,025 | 21,323,173 | 219.5 |
| Nonfarm personal income | 5,063,471 | 6,717,890 | 11,363,294 | 12,696,142 | 16,472,312 | 17,305,889 | 18,482,060 | 19,458,113 | 235.0 |
| Farm income | 540,116 | 1,288,957 | 1,009,607 | 1,088,817 | 957,725 | 685,623 | 1,433,965 | 1,865,060 | 94.7 |
| Earnings by type by place of work | 4,495,244 | 6,494,475 | 9,682,928 | 10,767,276 | 12,502,457 | 12,727,633 | 14,503,385 | 15,658,582 | 187.5 |
| Wages and salaries | 3,268,371 | 4,255,118 | 6,925,337 | 7,767,561 | 9,514,531 | 9,861,897 | 10,630,557 | 11,162,361 | 199.2 |
| Other labor income | 168,548 | 263,239 | 592,076 | 670,705 | 901,774 | 946,497 | 996,573 | 1,045,312 | 404.9 |
| Proprietors' income | 1,058,325 | 1,976,118 | 2,165,515 | 2,329,010 | 2,086,152 | 1,919,239 | 2,876,255 | 3,450,909 | 120.1 |
| Farm | 475,309 | 1,183,648 | 844,146 | 907,743 | 743,783 | 478,471 | 1,228,970 | 1,658,827 | 85.0 |
| Nonfarm | 583,016 | 792,470 | 1,321,369 | 1,421,267 | 1,342,369 | 1,440,768 | 1,647,285 | 1,792,082 | 153.4 |
| Earnings by industry by place of work | | | | | | | | | |
| Farm | 540,116 | 1,288,957 | 1,009,607 | 1,088,817 | 957,725 | 685,623 | 1,433,965 | 1,865,060 | 94.7 |
| Nonfarm | 3,955,128 | 5,205,518 | 8,673,321 | 9,678,459 | 1,1544,732 | 12,042,010 | 13,069,420 | 13,793,522 | 202.3 |
| Population (thousands) | 1,488 | 1,529 | 1,561 | 1,564 | 1,590 | 1,596 | 1,605 | 1,606 | 6.6 |
| PCE Deflator (1982=100) | 44.7 | 51.0 | 72.2 | 78.6 | 100.0 | 104.1 | 108.1 | 111.9 | 132.2 |
| Total employment | 705,841 | 761,412 | 845,965 | 869,454 | 852,214 | 856,775 | 887,876 | 908,137 | 22.8 |
| Wage and salary | 557,490 | 602,110 | 677,358 | 697,067 | 674,783 | 674,444 | 699,444 | 713,048 | 22.3 |
| Farm proprietors | 73,175 | 70,302 | 66,485 | 67,622 | 62,666 | 65,243 | 62,494 | 61,450 | -12.6 |
| Nonfarm proprietors | 75,176 | 89,000 | 102,122 | 104,765 | 114,765 | 117,088 | 125,938 | 133,639 | 58.1 |
| **PER CAPITA PERSONAL INCOME (constant dollars, 1985=100)** | | | | | | | | | |
| Personal income by place of residence | 9,428 | 11,493 | 12,289 | 12,545 | 12,271 | 12,117 | 12,848 | 13,281 | 29.2 |
| Nonfarm personal income | 8,519 | 9,640 | 11,282 | 11,557 | 11,593 | 11,656 | 11,920 | 12,116 | 35.5 |
| Farm income | 909 | 1,850 | 1,002 | 991 | 674 | 462 | 925 | 1,161 | -21.8 |
| Earnings by type by place of work | 7,563 | 9,320 | 9,614 | 9,801 | 8,799 | 8,572 | 9,354 | 9,750 | 16.2 |
| Wages and salaries | 5,499 | 6,106 | 6,876 | 7,071 | 6,696 | 6,642 | 6,856 | 6,950 | 21.0 |
| Other labor income | 284 | 378 | 588 | 611 | 635 | 637 | 643 | 651 | 104.7 |
| Proprietors' income | 1,780 | 2,836 | 2,150 | 2,120 | 1,468 | 1,293 | 1,855 | 2,149 | -11.3 |
| Farm | 800 | 1,699 | 838 | 826 | 523 | 322 | 793 | 1,033 | -25.8 |
| Nonfarm | 981 | 1,137 | 1,312 | 1,294 | 945 | 970 | 1,062 | 1,116 | 2.4 |
| Earnings by industry by place of work | | | | | | | | | |
| Farm | 909 | 1,850 | 1,002 | 991 | 674 | 462 | 925 | 1,161 | -21.8 |
| Nonfarm | 6,654 | 7,470 | 8,611 | 8,810 | 8,125 | 8,110 | 8,429 | 8,589 | 22.2 |
| Earnings per employee (constant dollars, 1985=100) | | | | | | | | | |
| Total employment | 15,943 | 18,715 | 17,740 | 17,631 | 16,416 | 15,968 | 16,909 | 17,243 | 0.8 |
| Wage and salary | 14,676 | 15,506 | 15,846 | 15,864 | 15,778 | 15,718 | 15,733 | 15,654 | 5.4 |
| Wage and salary (with other labor income) | 15,433 | 16,465 | 17,201 | 17,234 | 17,273 | 17,226 | 17,208 | 17,120 | 9.3 |
| Farm proprietors | 16,261 | 36,942 | 19,678 | 19,111 | 13,281 | 7,883 | 20,357 | 26,995 | -8.7 |
| Nonfarm proprietors | 19,414 | 19,537 | 20,054 | 19,314 | 13,089 | 13,227 | 13,540 | 13,410 | -31.0 |

Underlying data are from the *Regional Economic Information System*, Bureau of Economic Analysis, Table SA7. Converted to a per capita or per worker basis and adjusted for price change using the personal consumption expenditure deflator by the Bureau of Business Research. Due to space limitations, all years are not shown. The complete table is available upon request from the Bureau of Business Research.

seen that the general trend in total earnings per employee has been slightly downward since the mid 1970s. Although they are approximately 1 percent higher in 1983-1985 than they were in 1970-1972, most of the growth occurred in the 1970s.

The primary reason for the lack of an upward trend in total earnings is proprietors' income. The two measures of labor income (wages and salaries and wages and salaries plus other labor income) both exhibited a slight upward trend over the 16 year period. Most of the growth occurred in the early 1970s, however. Since the mid 1970s, the two measures of labor income have been flat, with 1985 values lower than any of the four preceding years. In fact, since 1976 wage and salary earnings per wage and salary employee have varied between $15,600 and $15,900, with $15,864 the peak in 1979, and 1980's value of $15,613 the lowest of the 10 year period. Total labor earnings per employee varied between $16,900 and $17,300 since 1976. The highest value occurred in 1982 ($17,273) and the lowest value in 1976 ($16,922).

Because of the growth in the early 1970s, however, these two measures of labor income recorded some growth over the 16 year period. Wages and salaries per employee were up 5.4 percent and

(continued on page 6)

Figure 1

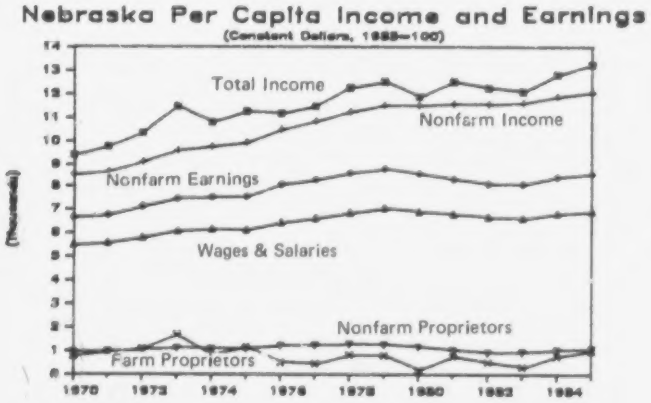



Figure 2

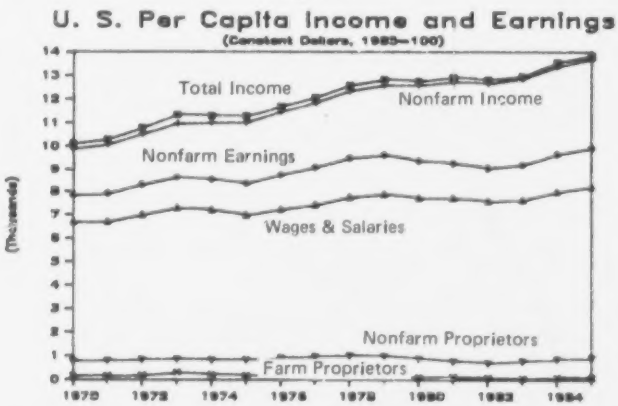



Figure 3

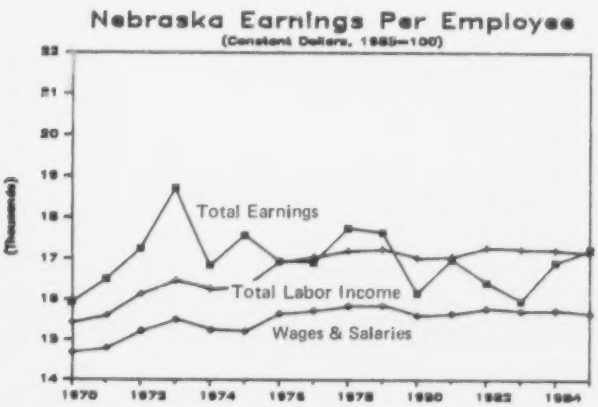



Figure 4

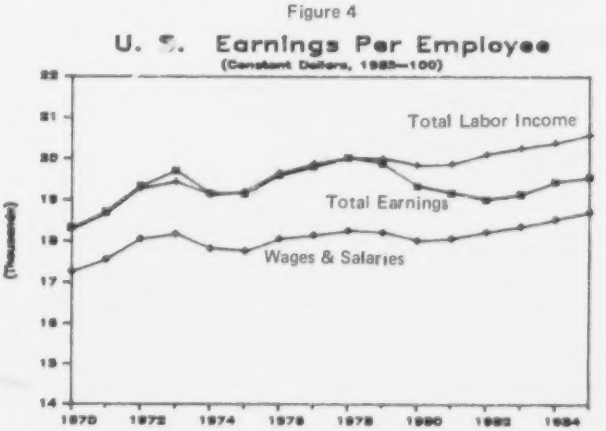



Figure 5

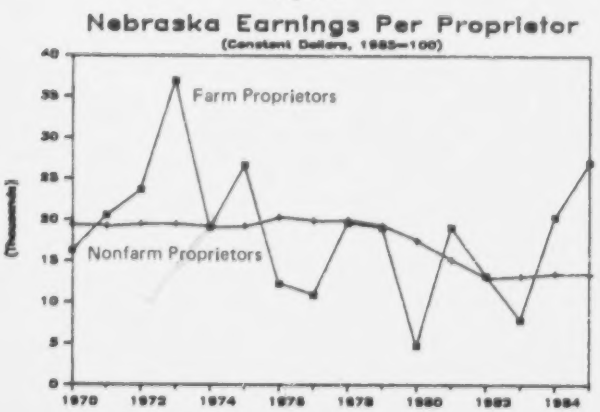
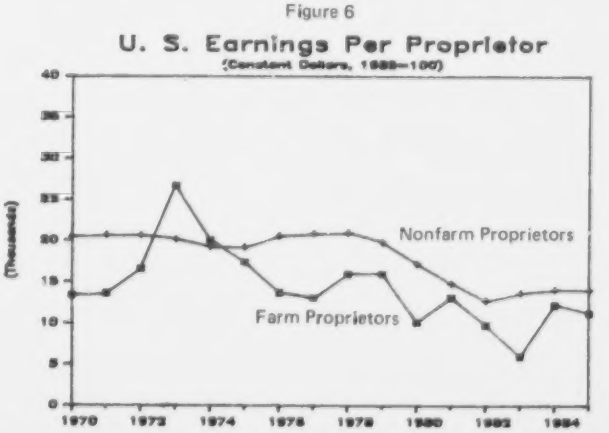



Figure 6



# Review and Outlook

## NATIONAL ECONOMY

The national economy continues to post modest growth. Third quarter GNP was an estimated 2.9 percent above year ago levels, somewhat below the long-term average of 3.5 percent. There are no conclusive indications of a sustainable economic pickup. The series of leading economic indicators has recorded small gains over the past six months, but these gains have been erratic. In some months, the series has declined.

On the positive side, some improvements are appearing in the U.S. balance of trade. Agricultural exports are projected to increase over the next twelve months. Any turnaround in the trade situation will be gradual and require years before the deficit and balance of trade are substantially reduced. Inflation remains around 2.0 percent. As long as oil prices are under $15 a barrel, inflation in 1987 should range between 2.0 and 4.0 percent.

Consumer spending has slowed following the auto-buying binge of September-October. Orders for nondefense durable goods are also weak. This implies little gain in employment in the next 12 months. For 1987, the Bureau of Business Research expects real economic growth to average around 3.0 percent. Employment at the national level will increase slightly, but unemployment will remain at 7.0 percent.

The risk of a recession continues to grow in the absence of any

(continued on page 5)

Notes for Tables 1 and 2: (1) The "distributive" indicator represents a composite of wholesale and retail trade; transportation, communication and utilities; finance, insurance, and real estate; and selected services. (2) The "physical volume" indicator and its components represent the dollar volume indicator and its components adjusted for price changes using appropriate price indexes—see Table 5, page 5.

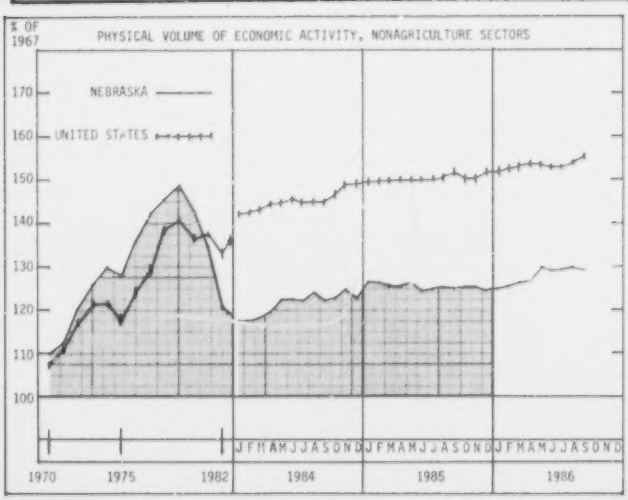
### ECONOMIC INDICATORS: NEBRASKA AND UNITED STATES

1. CHANGE FROM PREVIOUS YEAR

| September 1986 | Current Month as Percent of Same Month Previous Year | | 1986 to date as percent of 1985 to date | |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| Indicator | Nebraska | U.S. | Nebraska | U.S. |
| Dollar Volume | na | na | na | na |
| Agricultural | na | na | na | na |
| Nonagricultural | 105.2 | 104.5 | 104.1 | 104.4 |
| Construction | 91.2 | 105.3 | 98.4 | 106.7 |
| Manufacturing | 100.6 | 96.8 | 97.1 | 96.4 |
| Distributive | 106.8 | 106.5 | 105.1 | 106.5 |
| Government | 107.1 | 106.5 | 106.7 | 106.4 |
| Physical Volume | na | na | na | na |
| Agricultural | na | na | na | na |
| Nonagricultural | 103.0 | 102.6 | 101.6 | 102.6 |
| Construction | 88.5 | 102.1 | 95.6 | 103.7 |
| Manufacturing | 101.7 | 98.7 | 98.8 | 98.4 |
| Distributive | 105.0 | 104.7 | 102.9 | 104.3 |
| Government | 101.1 | 100.5 | 102.5 | 102.2 |

2. CHANGE FROM 1967

| September 1986 | Percent of 1967 Average | |
|---|---|---|
| Indicator | Nebraska | U.S. |
| Dollar Volume | na | na |
| Agricultural | na | na |
| Nonagricultural | 390.8 | 483.6 |
| Construction | 249.7 | 506.4 |
| Manufacturing | 364.0 | 306.1 |
| Distributive | 407.6 | 578.8 |
| Government | 431.2 | 490.6 |
| Physical Volume | na | na |
| Agricultural | na | na |
| Nonagricultural | 128.8 | 155.4 |
| Construction | 67.5 | 136.9 |
| Manufacturing | 150.2 | 123.3 |
| Distributive | 123.4 | 175.3 |
| Government | 153.3 | 154.6 |

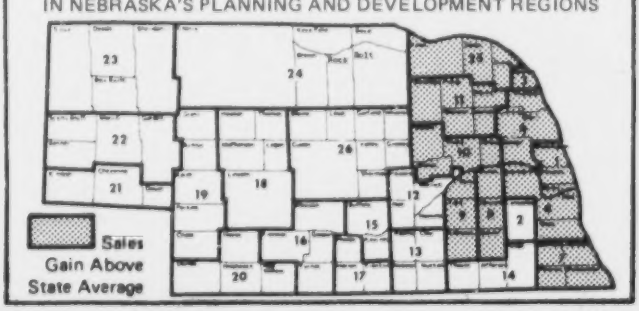



### 3. NET TAXABLE RETAIL SALES OF NEBRASKA REGIONS AND CITIES

| Region Number[1] and City | City Sales[2] Sept. 1986 as percent of Sept. 1985 | Sales in Region[2] Sept. 1986 as percent of Sept. 1985 | Sales in Region[2] 1986 to date as percent of 1985 to date |
|---|---|---|---|
| *The State* | 107.0 | 110.7 | 107.1 |
| 1 Omaha | 104.7 | 107.7 | 109.0 |
| Bellevue | 103.6 | | |
| Blair | 121.3 | | |
| 2 Lincoln | 101.8 | 103.6 | 106.8 |
| 3 So. Sioux City | 102.2 | 110.5 | 109.2 |
| 4 Nebraska City | 107.4 | 119.0 | 109.2 |
| 6 Fremont | 109.1 | 116.0 | 109.7 |
| West Point | 110.8 | | |
| 7 Falls City | 116.0 | 123.3 | 108.2 |
| 8 Seward | 114.2 | 124.2 | 112.5 |
| 9 York | 112.7 | 124.6 | 111.1 |
| 10 Columbus | 110.1 | 122.6 | 107.6 |
| 11 Norfolk | 116.0 | 130.5 | 110.2 |
| Wayne | 122.3 | | |
| 12 Grand Island | 109.7 | 116.9 | 105.0 |
| 13 Hastings | 108.7 | 118.8 | 106.0 |
| 14 Beatrice | 109.1 | 109.8 | 106.7 |
| Fairbury | 89.1 | | |
| 15 Kearney | 101.0 | 111.6 | 107.1 |
| 16 Lexington | 92.9 | 109.9 | 100.9 |
| 17 Holdrege | 121.3 | 123.9 | 103.8 |
| 18 North Platte | 116.2 | 120.5 | 106.7 |
| 19 Ogallala | 132.6 | 131.2 | 102.1 |
| 20 McCook | 87.2 | 97.3 | 100.8 |
| 21 Sidney | 97.0 | 96.8 | 92.7 |
| Kimball | 74.9 | | |
| 22 Scottsbluff/Gering | 102.5 | 102.0 | 102.5 |
| 23 Alliance | 105.2 | 121.6 | 104.7 |
| Chadron | 143.5 | | |
| 24 O'Neill | 116.3 | 128.3 | 107.2 |
| 25 Hartington | 97.1 | 124.8 | 114.0 |
| 26 Broken Bow | 107.7 | 112.3 | 104.1 |

[1] See region map below.
[2] Sales on which sales taxes are collected by retailers located in the state. Region totals include motor vehicle sales; city totals exclude motor vehicle sales.
Compiled from data provided by Nebraska Department of Revenue.

1986 YEAR TO DATE AS PERCENT OF 1985 YEAR TO DATE IN NEBRASKA'S PLANNING AND DEVELOPMENT REGIONS



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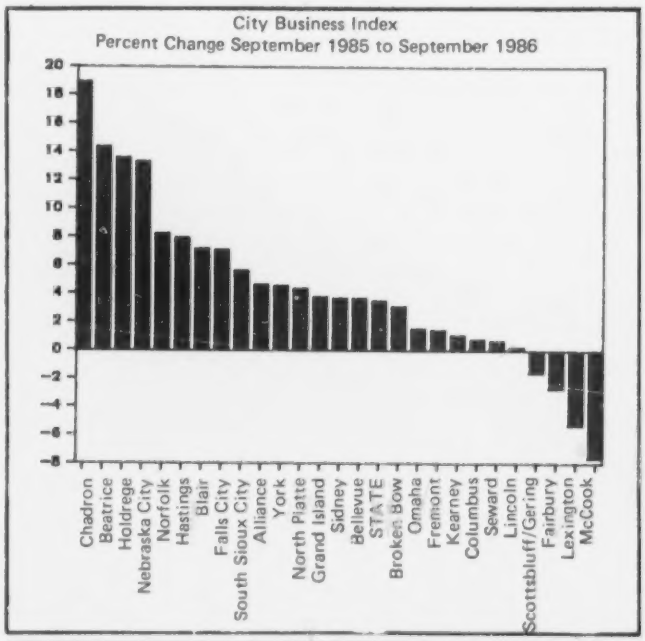
signs of a sustainable economic pickup. If consumers restrict their purchases in January, if businesses continue to hold back spending on plants and equipment, and if the federal government were to reduce its purchases of defense and nondefense items, a recession in 1987 is possible. At this time, the risk of a recession (a recession is defined as a decline in real output for two consecutive quarters) is rated at approximately two chances out of five. Policy actions required to avoid a recession would include a federal public works program and a continued liberal expansion of the money supply. Interest rates are unlikely to increase in the absence of any pickup in the economy. But look for rates to rise rapidly, however, if real growth begins to accelerate and exceeds 3.5 percent.

## NEBRASKA ECONOMY

Nebraska's economy expanded during the first two quarters of 1986, but this expansion appears to have stalled. Output and employment in the last half of 1986 will equal approximately 1985's level. For all 1986, output and employment will average higher than 1985 because of the relatively better performance during the the first half of 1986. Real output is up an estimated 1.0 percent which is well below Nebraska's long-term increase of 3.25 percent.

The economy in 1987 looks very much like that of 1986. Employment and real output are expected to change little in Nebraska. The Bureau of Business Research's series of leading economic indicators for Nebraska has plateaued. It has yet to indicate the likelihood of a recession, but it certainly is not indicating an expansion. If the national economy expands throughout 1987, Nebraska will record a small gain. If the national economy falls into a recession in 1987, Nebraska's economy will likely record a decrease in real output of around 1.0 percent. "Steady as she goes" appears to be a very apt characterization of the Nebraska economy.

DONALD E. PURSELL




4. September 1986 — CITY BUSINESS INDICATORS

| The State and Its Trading Centers | Percent of Same Month a Year Ago: Employment[1] | Building Activity[2] | Power Consumption[3] |
|---|---|---|---|
| *The State* | 100.0 | 95.0 | 91.4 |
| Alliance | 97.7 | 180.5 | 75.8 |
| Beatrice | 100.8 | 697.4 | 93.1 |
| Bellevue | 98.1 | 162.4 | 95.7 |
| Blair | 98.1 | 64.4 | 98.6 |
| Broken Bow | 100.8 | 75.7 | 78.2 |
| Chadron | 98.4 | 90.4 | 108.2 |
| Columbus | 101.3 | 36.0 | 95.2 |
| Fairbury | 100.4 | 135.6 | 93.1 |
| Falls City | 100.9 | 79.9 | 104.2 |
| Fremont | 101.1 | 47.1 | 92.2 |
| Grand Island | 101.9 | 66.3 | 87.8 |
| Hastings | 101.5 | 181.4 | na |
| Holdrege | 100.7 | 191.4 | 99.6 |
| Kearney | 101.4 | 90.0 | 94.0 |
| Lexington | 100.6 | 54.2 | 83.5 |
| Lincoln | 99.2 | 85.2 | 87.9 |
| McCook | 103.5 | 44.4 | 95.9 |
| Nebraska City | 100.8 | 652.8 | 84.0 |
| Norfolk | 100.8 | 105.2 | 91.9 |
| North Platte | 100.0 | 49.1 | 100.1 |
| Omaha | 98.1 | 95.6 | 96.2 |
| Scottsbluff/Gering | 100.5 | 48.0 | 88.5 |
| Seward | 101.0 | 25.0 | 97.9 |
| Sidney | 100.8 | 238.4 | 93.0 |
| So. Sioux City | 100.0 | 234.8 | 88.4 |
| York | 100.8 | 64.9 | 76.1 |

[1] As a proxy for city employment, total employment for the county in which a city is located is used.
[2] Building Activity is the value of building permits issued as spread over an appropriate time period of construction. The U.S. Department of Commerce Composite Construction Cost Index is used to adjust construction activity for price changes.
[3] Power Consumption is a combined index of consumption of electricity and natural gas except in cases marked * for which only one is used.

Source: Compilation by Bureau of Business Research from reports of private and public agencies.

5. PRICE INDEXES

| September 1986 | Index (1967 = 100) | Percent of Same Month Last Year | Year to Date as Percent of Same Period Last Year* |
|---|---|---|---|
| Consumer Prices | 330.2 | 101.8 | 102.1 |
| Commodity component | 283.5 | 98.7 | 99.3 |
| Wholesale Prices | 297.7 | 97.4 | 97.3 |
| Agricultural Prices | | | |
| United States | 222.0 | 101.4 | 94.9 |
| Nebraska | 213.0 | 101.4 | 95.6 |

*Using arithmetic average of monthly indexes.
Sources: Consumer and Wholesale Prices: U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics; Agricultural Prices: U.S. Department of Agriculture.

(continued from page 3)

total earnings per worker were up 9.3 percent and were close to the national growth of 5.1 percent and 8.9 percent, respectively.

Compared to the U.S. labor earnings, Nebraska followed roughly the same pattern until 1980. Since 1980, both wages and salaries and total labor income per employee have grown steadily for the U.S., in contrast to the stagnation for Nebraska.

Figures 5 and 6 review the trends in proprietors' income. Clearly, farm proprietors' income per farm proprietor and nonfarm proprietors' income per nonfarm proprietor have experienced downward trends. Nonfarm proprietors' income began dropping rapidly in 1980 and has yet to recover, as 1985's value of $13,410 remains approximately $6,000 below any year prior to 1980. Between 1970-1972 and 1983-1985, nonfarm proprietors' income per nonfarm proprietor dropped 31.0 percent. Nationally, nonfarm proprietors' income fell 32.4 percent.

Farm proprietors' income per farm proprietor also reported a downward trend, although high levels of production and large subsidies have pushed 1984 and 1985 earnings higher than most of the preceding years. In fact, 1985's value of $26,995 was second only to the $36,942 recorded in 1973. Despite the increases in 1984 and 1985, farm proprietors' income per farm proprietor was 8.7 percent less in 1983-1985 than it was in 1970-1972, compared to a 32.6 percent drop for the nation.

Figure 6 shows that farm and nonfarm proprietors' income for Nebraska followed the same general pattern as the U.S. The major exception occurred in 1985, when farm proprietors' income per farm proprietor fell for the U.S., but grew in Nebraska.

Several general conclusions can be reached from this article:

1. Most measures of income and earnings have grown on a price-adjusted per capita basis between 1970-1972 and 1983-1985.

2. Over this period, the rates of change for Nebraska and the U.S. are similar, with Nebraska outperforming the U.S. in the 1970s and lagging in the 1980s.

3. Most of the growth in Nebraska's economy occurred in the 1970s. Since 1979, per capita income and per capita nonfarm income have grown, but the components of earnings have been flat and have yet to reach their 1979 levels (on both a per capita and per worker basis).

JEROME A. DEICHERT 6

EXPORT PRICES FOR WHEAT AND CORN
(Basis FOB, U.S. Dollars Per Metric Ton)

| | WHEAT | | | | CORN | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | U.S. Gulf No. 2 H.W. | Argentina | Canada* No. 1 CWRS 12.5 | Australia Std. White | U.S. Gulf No. 3 Yellow | Argentina |
| 1981 | 177 | 189 | 212 | 175 | 134 | 138 |
| 1982 | 162 | 166 | 187 | 160 | 110 | 109 |
| 1983 | 158 | 138 | 185 | 161 | 137 | 133 |
| 1984 | 153 | 135 | 186 | 153 | 138 | 132 |
| 1985 | 138 | 106 | 178 | 141 | 113 | 103 |
| 1985 | | | | | | |
| May | 137 | 112 | 180 | 145 | 118 | 109 |
| June | 134 | 107 | 178 | 141 | 117 | 111 |
| July | 130 | 107 | 171 | 134 | 114 | 112 |
| August | 124 | 98 | 163 | 128 | 103 | 101 |
| Sept. | 128 | 93 | 165 | 131 | 103 | 88 |
| Oct. | 130 | 92 | 173 | 134 | 100 | 90 |
| Nov. | 136 | 98 | 181 | 139 | 108 | 95 |
| Dec. | 139 | 114 | 184 | 144 | 111 | 100 |
| 1986 | | | | | | |
| Jan. | 133 | 108 | 182 | 140 | 109 | 100 |
| Feb. | 131 | 102 | 177 | 133 | 106 | 92 |
| March | 136 | 97 | 183 | 139 | 101 | 87 |
| April | 125 | 96 | 182 | 137 | 102 | 86 |
| May | 120 | 90 | 175 | 131 | 107 | 90 |
| June | 108 | 85 | 151 | 114 | 104 | 90 |
| July | 103 | 81 | 142 | 104 | 86 | 84 |
| Aug. | 103 | 80 | 140 | 104 | 74 | 86 |
| Sept. 2 | 104 | 81 | 138 | 102 | 70 | 90 |
| Sept. 9 | 104 | 80 | 137 | 105 | 70 | 90 |
| Sept. 16 | 104 | 79 | 138 | 105 | 65 | 68 |
| Sept. 23 | 103 | 82 | 139 | 105 | 68 | 70 |
| Sept. 30 | 105 | 81 | 140 | 107 | 72 | 73 |
| Oct. 7 | 104 | 81 | 131 | 105 | 63 | 68 |
| Oct. 14 | 106 | 81 | 126 | 108 | 65 | 69 |
| Oct. 21 | 106 | 78 | 126 | 108 | 68 | 70 |
| Oct. 28 | 105 | 79 | 129 | 109 | 73 | 71 |
| Nov. 4 | 107 | 79 | 129 | 109 | 75 | 72 |

*In Store Export Elevators

Source: United States Department of Agriculture, Foreign Agricultural Service, *Grains, World Grain Situation and Outlook.*


# BUSINESS IN NEBRASKA

**PREPARED BY BUREAU OF BUSINESS RESEARCH**
**Member Association for University Business & Economic Research**

*Business in Nebraska* is issued monthly as a public service and mailed free within the state upon request to 200 CBA, University of Nebraska-Lincoln, Lincoln, NE 68588-0406. Material herein may be reproduced with proper credit.

**Address correction requested.**

January 1987, Vol. 42 No. 508

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